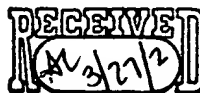


Official

Attorney's Docket No. 18360/204167

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Nicholls

Appl. No.: 09/315,680

Group Art Unit: 2164

Filed: CPA Filed Herewith

For: LOGISTICS SYSTEM FOR AUTOMATING TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS

January 22, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In The Claims:

Please cancel Claims 90-98.

Please amend Claims 55 and 86.

55. (Amended) A logistics management method for facilitating the process of shipping goods by a shipper via a carrier, said shipper having a computer-implemented client application that has access to a network and which is related to shipping said goods, said client application having a set of rules by which the shipper ships, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a rate server having a set of rules by which the carrier transports in order to determine data related to shipping the goods;

providing access to said rate server on said network from the client application such that said rate server is separately located from said client application on said network; and

communicating the determined data from said rate server to said client application through an interprocess communication mechanism connected to said network and thereby